

REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 90, 93-125, and 128-136. Claims 90, 93-125, and 128-141 remain pending in this application. Claim 137 has been amended. No new matter has been added. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims in this or other applications.

Claims 137-141 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,204,524 (Rhodes) and U.S. Patent Application No. 09/784,598 (Lauxtermann). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 137 recites a method of forming an imager comprising “connecting an electrode of a first charge storage capacitor to said floating diffusion region by a first electrical contact.” According to claim 137, “said first charge storage capacitor is formed to partially overly said field oxide region.” Rhodes in view of Lauxtermann fails to teach or suggest these limitations.

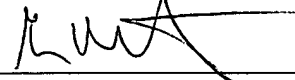
The Office Action admits that Rhodes fails to teach or suggest “connecting an electrode of a first charge storage capacitor to said floating diffusion region.” Office Action at p. 3. As such, Rhodes fails to teach or suggest “a first charge storage capacitor ... formed to partially overly said field oxide region.” The Office Action tries to combine Rhodes with Lauxtermann.

Lauxtermann, however, deals generally with “a method for operating an integrated image sensor.” Lauxtermann at ¶ 0001. Lauxtermann does not disclose, teach, or suggest a method of forming an imager, nor any physical layout of the imager components. Even the figures of Lauxtermann present only general layouts, operational timing diagrams, and circuit diagrams of imager circuits. Lauxtermann at FIGS. 1-3. As such, Lauxtermann fails to teach or suggest a “first charge storage capacitor ... formed to partially overly said field oxide region.” Claims 138-141 depend from claim 137, and should be allowable along with claim 137. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: April 4, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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